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Report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

General Assembly
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Supplement No. 24A (A/47/24/Add.1)

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights held its third session at Geneva from 14 to 18 September 1992, in accordance with the mandate conferred by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991. It held 10 meetings during the session. The session was opened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Secretary-General of the World Conference.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, liberation movements, other organizations and non-governmental organizations:

States

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

United Nations human rights bodies

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Working Group on Detention, Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Other United Nations bodies

Department of Economic and Social Development, Department of Public Information, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund.

Intergovernmental organizations

Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Commission of the European Communities, Council of Europe, International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States.

Other organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross.

National liberation movements

Palestine.

Non-governmental organizations

(Category I)

International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Cooperative Alliance, International Council for Adult Education, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, International Council of Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Society for International Development, Soroptimist International, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Assembly of Youth, World Confederation of Labour, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress, World Veterans Federation, Zonta International.

(Category II)

African Association of Education for Development, All Indian Women's Conference, American Association of Jurists, American Association of Retired Persons, Amnesty International, Andean Commission of Jurists, Anti-Slavery International for the Protection of Human Rights, Arab Lawyers Union, Arab Organization for Human Rights, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, Caritas Internationalis, Christian Democrat International, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Conference of European Churches, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Defence for Children International Movement, Development Innovations and Networks, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), General Arab Women Federation, Human Rights Advocates, International Association Against Torture, International Association for

Religious Freedom, International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, International Association of Penal Law, International Bar Association, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies, International Commission of Jurists, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Human Rights, International Federation of Social Workers, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation on Ageing, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples, International Organization for the Development of Freedom of Education, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Organization of Journalists, International Service for Human Rights, International Union of Lawyers, International Union of Students, International Union of Young Christian Democrats, Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees, Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), Medical Women's International Association, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Pathways to Peace, Salvation Army, Union of Arab Jurists, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Jewish Congress, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World University Service, World Vision International, Young Women's Christian Association.

(Roster)

Commonwealth Medical Association, Foodfirst Information and Action Network, Indian Council of South America, International Federation for Parent Education, International Federation of Pedestrians, International Studies Association, Minority Rights Group, Planetary Citizens, World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Organization Against Torture, World Peace Council.

3. A list of the documents before the Preparatory Committee at its third session is contained in annex III to the present report.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

4. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September, the Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Horacio Arteaga (Venezuela)
Mr. John Swift (Ireland)
Mr. M. Prakash Shah (India)

Rapporteur: Mr. Zdzislaw Kedzia (Poland)

5. With regard to the rules of procedure, the Preparatory Committee at its first session had decided that the rules of procedure governing its meeting should in so far as applicable be those of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September, the Preparatory Committee had before it the provisional agenda for its third session (A/CONF.157/PC/38) and the annotations thereto (A/CONF.157/PC/38/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2).

7. On the recommendation of the Bureau, the agenda was adopted without a vote. For the text of the agenda as adopted, see annex I.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September, statements with regard to the question of the status of Yugoslavia were made by the representatives of: Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Finland (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Japan, New Zealand, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Community), United States of America and Yugoslavia.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to establish a committee of the whole, as necessary, as well as an open-ended working group to address specific agenda items.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to waive for its third session rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

V. DATES AND VENUE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

11. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 5 at its 1st meeting, on 14 September. The Committee took note of General Assembly decision 46/473 of 6 May 1992, entitled "Venue and dates of the World Conference on Human Rights", in which the Assembly, noting with deep satisfaction the decision of the Government of Austria to invite the World Conference on Human Rights to meet at Vienna, decided that the World Conference would be convened at Vienna for two weeks in June 1993.

12. The representative of Austria made a statement relating to the above-mentioned decision and informed the Preparatory Committee that the dates envisaged were 14 to 25 June 1993.

VI. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

13. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 1st meeting, on 14 September, and at its 8th to 10th meetings, held on 17 and 18 September.

14. The attention of the Preparatory Committee was drawn to its decision PC.2/8 of 10 April 1992, entitled "Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights", adopted at its second session. 1/

15. At its 1st meeting, on 14 September, the Preparatory Committee decided on the number of Vice-Presidents to be included in rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference on Human Rights. For the text of the decision, see annex II, decision PC.3/1.

16. At the 4th meeting, on 15 September, the representative of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, orally revised the draft decision concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in regional meetings proposed by the Asian Group at the second session of the Preparatory Committee (see A/CONF.157/PC/37, para. 40), as follows: 2/ after the words "concerned region", the words "or non-governmental organizations with competence in the field of human rights and development, which have their headquarters in the concerned region," were added.

17. The representative of India further stated that, if the above-mentioned revised proposal were accepted by the Preparatory Committee, the Asian Group would agree to the removal of the brackets in rule 66 of the provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights (see decision PC.2/8).

18. In response to inquiries made by the representatives of Chile, the Netherlands and Sweden, the representative of India stated that the word "and" between the words "human rights" and the word "development" should read as "and/or".

19. At the 8th meeting, on 17 September, the representative of India revised anew the draft decision contained in paragraph 40 of the report of the second session of the Preparatory Committee as follows: after the words "World Conference on Human Rights:" the phrase "non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and with competence in the field of human rights and development, which have their headquarters in the concerned region," was replaced by the following:

> "(a) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which are active in the field of human rights and/or development and have a presence in the concerned region;
>
> "(b) Non-governmental organizations which are active in the field of human rights and/or development, and have their headquarters in the concerned region".

20. The representative of Cameroon made a statement relating to the above revision.

21. At the 9th meeting, on 18 September, the representative of India further revised the revised proposal concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in regional meetings, as follows:

(a) In subparagraph (a), the words "and have a presence" were replaced by the words "as well as";

(b) In subparagraph (b), the word "other" was inserted before the word "non-governmental" and the words "in prior consultation with the countries of the region" were added after the words "in the concerned region".

22. At the 10th meeting, on 18 September, statements relating to the above revision were made by the representatives of Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, France, India and the United States of America.

23. The representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Chile stated that the revision had not been supported by the Latin American and Caribbean Group as a whole; the representative of Argentina stated that he supported the broadest presence and participation of non-governmental organizations in regional meetings and at the World Conference.

24. In response to inquiries regarding the criteria for participation under the revised text, the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights stated that, by means of consultations among the regional groups, an agreement had been reached. Under subparagraph (a) all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council could participate in the regional meetings, which would satisfy the conditions set out in that subparagraph. In accordance with subparagraph (b), the secretariat would be obliged to consult the concerned countries prior to the respective regional meeting; such consultation did not, however, imply that any country could exercise a veto with respect to the participation of any given non-governmental organization.

25. The proposal, as revised, was adopted without a vote (see annex II, decision PC.3/2).

26. After the adoption of the revised proposal, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, stated that he expected that the proposal adopted for the participation of non-governmental organizations in regional meetings would be broadly and generously interpreted and that setting conditions such as those contained in the adopted proposal would not constitute a precedent.

27. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided, without a vote, to remove the brackets from the text of rule 66 of the provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional rules of procedure as a whole, without a vote (see annex II, decision PC.3/3).

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

29. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 7 at its 1st to 10th meetings, held on 14 to 18 September 1992.

30. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents, in addition to those submitted on this question to it at its second session:

(a) Letter dated 16 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights relating to national action plans in the field of human rights (A/CONF.157/PC/39/Rev.1);

(b) Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155: report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/46 and Add.1, Add.2/Rev.1 and Add.3-11);

(c) Note by the secretariat (A/CONF.157/PC/48);

(d) Letter dated 11 August 1992 from the Director of International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning the question of statelessness (A/CONF.157/PC/49);

(e) Letter dated 8 September 1992 from the Director-General of the World Health Organization addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning human rights issues in health (A/CONF.157/PC/51);

(f) Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Chairman of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning recommended items for the provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/52);

(g) Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights relating to the women's issue in the provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/53).

31. Statements 3/ were made by the representatives of Australia (5th), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1st), Canada (3rd), China (2nd), Croatia (2nd), Ethiopia (5th), Lao People's Democratic Republic (3rd), New Zealand (5th), Nigeria (3rd), Norway (on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) (5th), Poland (on behalf of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland) (5th), Russian Federation (2nd), Rwanda (3rd), Togo (2nd), Samoa (4th), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Community) (1st), the United Republic of Tanzania (2nd) and the United States of America (1st).

32. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following human rights bodies: Committee against Torture (2nd), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (3rd) and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (6th).

33. Statements were made by representatives of the following United Nations bodies: Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Division for the Advancement of Women (1st) and Division of Social Development (1st), Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch (1st), United Nations Population Fund (2nd) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (3rd).

34. The Preparatory Committee heard statements by the observers of the International Labour Organisation (1st) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (5th).

35. A statement was made by the observer for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (3rd).

36. The observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross also made a statement (4th).

37. Statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: American Association of Jurists (4th), Commonwealth Medical Association (2nd), International Alliance of Women (5th), International Bar Association (4th), International Fellowship of Reconciliation (3rd), Pathways to Peace (4th), Women's International Democratic Federation (3rd) and World Federation of Methodist Women (2nd).

38. At the 4th meeting, on 15 September, the Chairman introduced a working paper containing a proposed draft provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights, which was the result of consultations among delegations. The Chairman noted that there still existed different positions concerning item 9 of this draft. The working paper read as follows:

"The Preparatory Committee decides that the provisional agenda for the World Conference should read as follows:

"Provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights

"1. Opening of the Conference.

"2. Election of the President.

"3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

"4. Election of the other officers of the Conference.

"5. Appointment of the Credentials Committee.

"6. Establishment of working committees.

"7. Adoption of the agenda.

"8. Commemoration of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

"9. Evaluation of the results achieved and the obstacles to the promotion, full realization and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms [including the right to self-determination, the elimination of foreign occupation, racism, xenophobia, and all forms of racial discrimination, including apartheid,] with emphasis on the implementation of human rights standards and instruments and on the effectiveness of the United Nations machinery.

"10. Consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights, keeping in view the interrelationship and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

"11. Consideration, in conformity with the fundamental principles which guide United Nations action, of contemporary trends in and new challenges to the full realization of all human rights, including those of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

"12. Recommendations to ensure the effective enjoyment of all human rights, noting the variety of contexts and taking into account the universality of those rights and the principles of objectivity and non-selectivity in the implementation of human rights instruments and mechanisms.

"13. Recommendations for strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights and improving the coordination and effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms, as well as the relationship between international and regional instruments and mechanisms as appropriate.

"14. Recommendations to secure the necessary financial and other resources for United Nations activities in the field of human rights.

"15. Adoption of the final documents and report of the Conference."

39. Statements concerning the working paper were made by representatives of Australia (5th, 6th and 7th), Austria (5th, 6th and 8th), Botswana (6th), Cameroon (4th and 6th), Canada (6th), Chile (5th and 6th), China (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th), Colombia (6th), Croatia (5th and 6th), Cuba (4th, 5th and 6th), Cyprus (6th), Denmark (6th), Egypt (5th and 6th), France (6th), India (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th), Ireland (5th and 6th), Jordan (6th), the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (6th), Malawi (5th), Malaysia (6th and 8th), Mauritius (6th), Myanmar (6th and 7th), the Netherlands (6th), Nigeria (6th), Pakistan (5th and 6th), the Russian Federation (8th), Rwanda (6th), Senegal (6th and 7th), Sierra Leone (5th and 6th), Singapore (6th and 7th), Sri Lanka (5th), Spain (5th), the Sudan (6th and 7th), the Syrian Arab Republic (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th), Turkey (6th), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (5th), the United Republic of Tanzania (5th), the United States of America (5th and 7th), Uruguay (6th), Venezuela (4th and 6th) and Yemen (6th and 7th).

40. The observer for Palestine made a statement concerning the working paper.

41. In their statements, the speakers referred to the phrase contained in brackets in paragraph 9 of the working paper. Several speakers stated that the reference in that phrase to the specific obstacles to the promotion, full realization and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should remain because they were of major concern to a great number of societies and countries and reflected principles or ideas already contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments, and international humanitarian law. Other speakers, in favour of deleting the phrase, stated that reference in the agenda of the World Conference to specific human rights and obstacles to their implementation might lead to a prioritization of human rights, contradicting the principles of universality and non-selectivity of human rights. Several speakers stressed that, irrespective of the specific contents of the agenda, any delegation should be free to raise at the World Conference any questions of concern to it and to propose that those questions be included in the final document of the Conference.

42. A number of representatives expressed support for the inclusion of the issues of the status of women, the rights of the child, terrorism and torture in the provisional agenda of the World Conference.

43. At the 6th meeting, on 16 September, the representative of Canada proposed that the brackets in paragraph 9 of the working paper be removed and that a footnote be added to the provisional agenda, reading as follows:

> "Nothing in this agenda precludes participants from raising any issue under the appropriate agenda item, or from undertaking negotiations with the objective of including particular concerns in the final document."

44. At the same meeting, the representative of France proposed that the phrase under discussion contained in paragraph 9 of the working paper be deleted and that the Chairman make a statement, to be reflected in the report, that at the World Conference delegations could raise any thematic issue of interest to them and could also put forward any such issue during the elaboration of the final document.

45. At its 7th meeting, on 17 September, the Preparatory Committee considered paragraph 10 of the working paper. A number of speakers stated that development issues should be given priority and referred to "the right to development" in that paragraph. Other speakers stated that the concept and implementation of the right to development had yet to be consolidated. One speaker emphasized that human rights was the main issue and more important than the concepts of development and democracy.

46. At the same meeting, the representative of Yemen proposed to insert in paragraph 10, after the words "keeping in view", the words "the priority of economic development and access to technology".

47. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee, on the proposal by the Chairman, approved paragraphs 1 to 8 of the working paper as items 1 to 8 of the draft provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights.

48. At the 8th meeting, on 17 September, the representative of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, stated that, with regard to the question of a draft

provisional agenda and, in particular, with regard to paragraph 9 of the working paper, the Group had reached consensus and its position paper was presented and discussed among the Bureau members.

49. At the same meeting, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group, stated that the Group had decided to submit the working paper introduced by the Chairman as its official proposal for the agenda of the World Conference. The proposal was issued under the symbol A/CONF.157/PC/L.3.

50. A statement relating to the above proposal was made by the representative of Singapore.

51. At the 9th meeting, on 18 September, the representative of India, on behalf of the Asian Group, formally submitted a proposal (A/CONF.157/PC/L.4) for a draft provisional agenda for the World Conference, which read as follows:

"The Preparatory Committee decides that the provisional agenda for the World Conference should read as follows:

"Draft agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights

"Item 1 - Opening of the Conference.

"Item 2 - Election of the President.

"Item 3 - Adoption of the Rules of Procedure.

"Item 4 - Election of other officers of the Conference.

"Item 5 - Appointment of the Credentials Committee.

"Item 6 - Establishment of Committees and Working Groups.

"Item 7 - Adoption of the agenda.

"Item 8 - Commemoration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

"Item 9 - Evaluation of the results achieved, existing obstacles and new challenges, in the promotion, full realization and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms with emphasis on relevant human rights standards, and existing instruments and on the effectiveness of the methods, mechanisms and procedures of the United Nations System, particularly:

"(a) The taking of effective measures in order to guarantee the implementation of human rights standards, international instruments, and resolutions by the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights in the foreign occupied territories and to ensure the effective legal protection for the peoples under foreign occupation until the elimination of that occupation;

"(b) In conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter, the taking of effective international measures to monitor massive human rights violations and indiscriminate killings of United Nations recognized occupied and disputed territories;

"(c) Speedy and comprehensive elimination of racial discrimination, apartheid, foreign occupation, alien domination and new forms of xenophobia as serious violations of human rights;

"(d) Universal realization of the right of all peoples under colonial, foreign and alien domination to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights and for the preservation, promotion and protection of such rights;

"(e) Terrorism in all its forms, recognizing the essential need for a definition of terrorism, and its differentiation from the legitimate struggles of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination;

"(f) Human rights and fundamental freedoms of vulnerable groups such as ethnic, national, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

"Item 10 - Consideration of the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of human rights with emphasis on the indivisibility between the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, particularly the consequences of economic underdevelopment on the enjoyment of human rights, bearing in mind the primacy of the right to economic development and access to technology and the need to create essential international conditions for the realization of that right.

"Item 11 - Formulation of guidelines for the implementation of human rights in conformity with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations taking due account, inter alia, of (a) respect for cultural, social and religious particularities/tradition of nations at the international, regional and national levels; (b) respect for principal legal systems; (c) universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of all human rights and the need to avoid double standards; (d) respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

"Item 12 - Practical measures to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations activities and mechanisms and to secure financial, human and other resources, technical assistance and advisory services including training and educational measures necessary for United Nations activities in the area of human rights.

"Item 13 - Adoption of the final document and report of the Conference."

52. Statements relating to the two formally submitted proposals were made by the representatives of Algeria (9th), Pakistan (9th), the Philippines (9th), Singapore (9th), the Sudan (9th), the Syrian Arab Republic (9th), the United States of America (9th) and Yemen (9th).

53. The observer for Palestine made a statement relating to the proposal submitted by the Asian Group.

54. At its 10th meeting, on 18 September, the Preparatory Committee decided to consider the proposals for the provisional agenda of the World Conference in a committee of the whole.

55. The Committee of the Whole, at its 1st meeting, on 18 September 1992, decided to set up a group consisting of representatives from each regional group to consider the proposals.

56. At its resumed 10th meeting, the Preparatory Committee continued its consideration of agenda item 7.

57. The Chairman announced that, although the group set up by the Committee of the whole had not reached agreement on a draft provisional agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights, considerable progress had been made. The Chairman expressed the hope that this would lead to the adoption by consensus of a draft provisional agenda. She stated that it was the mandate of the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly on its work.

58. The representatives of Austria, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore and Yemen made statements relating to this matter. Some speakers shared the view of the Chairman that considerable progress had been achieved at the third session of the Preparatory Committee. A number of speakers urged that a draft provisional agenda be adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session. Others noted that a draft provisional agenda might be adopted by the General Assembly at its forthcoming session.

59. In response to an inquiry concerning the implications of the inability of the Preparatory Committee to draw up a draft agenda, the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights stated that the preparations for the Conference would continue and that the regional meetings would proceed as specified by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/155 of 18 December 1990 unless the Assembly decided otherwise.

VIII. REGIONAL MEETINGS

60. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 2nd meeting, held on 14 September 1992.

61. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the secretariat (A/CONF.157/PC/40);

(b) Letter dated 25 August 1992 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Coordinator of the Asian Group in Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference relating to the postponement of the Asian Regional Meeting (A/CONF.157/PC/40/Add.1);

(c) Recommendations concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the regional meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/50/Rev.1).

62. At the 2nd meeting, the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement regarding the agenda item.

63. Statements were made by the representatives of France (2nd) and India (2nd).

64. A statement was made by the International Alliance of Women (5th).

IX. STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

65. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 9 at its 2nd meeting, held on 14 September 1992.

66. The Preparatory Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/CONF.157/PC/41).

67. At the 2nd meeting, the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement regarding the agenda item.

68. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (2nd), the United States of America (2nd), and Venezuela (2nd).

69. A statement was made by the Women's International Democratic Federation (4th).

70. The Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement concerning the preparation of studies called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991 and further elaborated in document A/CONF.157/PC/20. Those studies were under way and the proposals contained in documents A/CONF.157/PC/25, 29, 34 and 36 had been taken into consideration. He also stated that, pursuant to the understanding reached at the second session of the Preparatory Committee, consultations were being carried out with the regional groups. He suggested that, if the Committee so desired, a list of studies could be circulated indicating the status of preparation and other relevant information.

X. OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

71. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 10 at its 2nd meeting, held on 14 September 1992.

72. The Preparatory Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/42);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/43).

73. At the 2nd meeting, the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement regarding the agenda item.

74. Statements were made by the representatives of Australia (2nd) and Colombia (2nd).

75. The Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights made a statement explaining the guidelines followed by the secretariat in preparing the document called for in decision PC.2/3, of 10 April 1992, adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its second session.

XI. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

76. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 11 at its 2nd meeting, held on 14 September 1992.

77. The Preparatory Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/44) on this question.

78. The representative of the Department of Public Information made a statement with regard to the activities being undertaken under the agenda item.

XII. PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

79. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 12 at its 2nd meeting, held on 14 September 1992.

80. The Preparatory Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the voluntary fund (A/CONF.157/PC/45).

81. Statements were made by the representatives of France (2nd), Austria (3rd), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Community) (3rd) and Rwanda (4th).

82. A statement was also made by a representative of the Committee against Torture (3rd).

XIII. ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

83. The Preparatory Committee did not consider agenda item 13.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

84. At its 10th meeting, on 18 September 1992, the Preparatory Committee entrusted the Rapporteur with the completion of the report on the work of its third session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/47/24), annex II.

2/ Ibid., para. 40.

3/ The number in parentheses following the names of States or organizations indicates the meeting at which the statement was made.

ANNEX I

Agenda

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of officers and adoption of the rules of procedure.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Organization of work.

5. Dates and venue of the World Conference.

6. Draft rules of procedure for the World Conference.

7. Provisional agenda for the World Conference and documentation, including the question of the final outcome.

8. Regional meetings.

9. Status of preparation of publications, studies and documentation for the World Conference.

10. Other meetings and activities.

11. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on public information activities relating to the World Conference and the preparatory process.

12. Participation of representatives of least developed countries in the preparatory meetings and the Conference itself.

13. Organization of future sessions of the Preparatory Committee.

14. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

ANNEX II

Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights at its third session

PC.3/1. Number of Vice-Presidents of the World Conference on Human Rights

At its 1st meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Preparatory Committee decided that, for the purposes of the provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference on Human Rights, the number of Vice-Presidents of the World Conference would be twenty-nine. The Preparatory Committee further decided to request the General Assembly to decide on the geographical distribution of these offices.

[See chap. VI.]

PC.3/2. Participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations at regional meetings

At its 9th meeting, on 18 September 1992, the Preparatory Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly that it should request the Secretary-General to invite the following non-governmental organizations to the regional meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights:

(a) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which are active in the field of human rights and/or development as well as in the concerned region;

(b) Other non-governmental organizations which are active in the field of human rights and/or development, and have their headquarters in the concerned region, in prior consultation with the countries of the region;

which designate representatives properly accredited by them to participate as observers in the regional meeting.

[See chap. VI.]

PC.3/3. Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights

At its 10th meeting, on 18 September 1992, the Preparatory Committee decided without a vote to adopt the provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights as annexed to the present decision.

[See chap. VI.]

ANNEX

Provisional rules of procedure for the World Conference on Human Rights

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its most recent session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, twenty-nine Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for each of the Main Committees established in accordance with rule 46. Those officers shall be elected in such a way as to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the General Committee.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. The President, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Conference.

2. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, such decisions as the Conference may make from time to time, and shall have control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

1. The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairmen of the Main Committees shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee.

2. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In the case of absence, the Chairman of a Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, the Vice-Chairman of a Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he/she is, exceptionally and without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General of the Conference may designate a member of the Secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General of the Conference shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings and provide summary records of meetings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations; and

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference, or any member of the secretariat designated by either for that purpose, may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, the Secretary-General of the Conference, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall, to the extent possible, at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when the representatives of at least one third of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of a Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may read out the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be put to the vote immediately.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a vote no earlier than twenty-four hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 28, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Plenary of the Conference on all matters of substance shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Plenary of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, it shall be decided by the Conference by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representatives shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal which are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from or revise part of another proposal.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such a majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committees

Rule 46

The Conference may establish Main Committees as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committees

Rule 47

Each State participating may be represented by one representative on each Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to those Committees such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the committees referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Each committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Officers

Rule 49

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 50

1. The Chairman of a Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 51

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the Credentials Committee, the Main Committees, other committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote; and

(b) Decisions of the Main Committees, other committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 52

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference, and shall be the official and working languages of the Main Committee, other committees, subcommittees and working groups of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 53

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 54

Official documents of the Conference shall be circulated in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 55

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of any Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. No such recordings shall be made of the meetings of the working groups unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 56

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body decides that exceptional circumstances require that the meeting be held in private. All decisions taken by the Plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at a public meeting of the Plenary early thereafter.

Rule 57

The meetings of the General Committee of the Conference and of the Bureaux of its subsidiary bodies shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 58

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 59

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 60

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Rule 61

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 62

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 63

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of national human rights institutions

Rule 64

Representatives designated by national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights may participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of United Nations human rights and related bodies

Rule 65

The Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, the chairpersons or other designated members of human rights bodies, including of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and of bodies established under international human rights instruments, as well as special and thematic rapporteurs and the chairpersons or designated members of working groups, may participate as observers in the deliberations

of the Conference, any Main Committee and, as appropriate, any committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 66

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and with competence in the field of human rights, and other non-governmental organizations which participated in the work of the Preparatory Committee or the regional meetings may designate representatives properly accredited by them to participate as observers in the Conference, its Main Committees and, as appropriate, any of the committees or working groups, on questions within the scope of their activities.

Written statements

Rule 67

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 59 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 68

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 69

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

ANNEX III

List of documents issued for the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights

Documents issued in the general series

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
A/CONF.157/PC/38	3	Note by the Secretariat: provisional agenda
A/CONF.157/PC/38/Add.1 and Corr.1 and Add.2	3	Annotations to the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights
A/CONF.157/PC/39/Rev.1	7	Letter dated 16 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights relating to national action plans in the field of human rights
A/CONF.157/PC/40	8	Note by the secretariat
A/CONF.157/PC/40/Add.1	8	Letter dated 25 August 1992 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Coordinator of the Asian Group in Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference relating to the postponement of the Asian Regional Meeting
A/CONF.157/PC/41	9	Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.157/PC/42	10	Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.157/PC/43	10	Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.157/PC/44	11	Public information programme and information coverage of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process
A/CONF.157/PC/45	12	Status of the voluntary fund: report of the Secretary-General

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
A/CONF.157/PC/46 and Add.1, Add.2/Rev.1 and Add.3 to 11	7	Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.157/PC/47	13	Note by the secretariat
A/CONF.157/PC/48	7	Note by the secretariat
A/CONF.157/PC/49	7	Letter dated 11 August 1992 from the Director of International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning the question of statelessness
A/CONF.157/PC/50/Rev.1	8	Recommendations concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the regional meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.157/PC/51	7	Letter dated 8 September 1992 from the Director-General of the World Health Organization addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning human rights issues in health
A/CONF.157/PC/52	7	Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Chairman of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights concerning recommended items for the provisional agenda of the Conference

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
A/CONF.157/PC/53	7	Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed to the Secretary-General of the World Conference on Human Rights relating to the women's issue in the provisional agenda of the Conference
A/CONF.157/PC/L.1		Not issued
A/CONF.157/PC/L.2/ Rev.1	14	Draft report of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights on its third session
A/CONF.157/PC/L.3	12	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft decision
A/CONF.157/PC/L.4	12	Draft decision submitted by India

كيفية الحصول على منشورات الأمم المتحدة

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